

Room 111 Meet the Staff Night

September 13, 2017

Agenda:

- Getting to know Ms. Namdar & Ms. Carfora
- Defining "Bridge" Classrooms & Integrated Team Teaching Classrooms
- Benefits of "Bridge" Classrooms for Students
- Curriculum, Standards & Assessments
- Homework
- Lunch & Snack procedures
- Question & Answers

Room 111 Team

Liza Carfora

Mahta Namdar

Daily Schedule

Subject areas such as math, and writing are normally scheduled for 45-50 minute periods each day. Reading is comprised of a two period block of time, typically in the morning, and it includes a reading lesson, a read aloud, and depending on the day, Word Study or Shared Reading. Social Studies and Science are scheduled two to three times a week. The students also go to a "Specials" class once a day. The specials are Music, Drama, Seeds of Kindness, and Creative Movement (2x/week).

Typical Daily Schedule

8:20	Arrival & Unpack Morning Meeting Morning Math
9:10	Reading Block Reading Workshop
10:00	Reading Block Word Study, Shared Reading (Snack)
10:45	Writing Workshop
11:30	Math Workshop
12:20	Lunch & Recess
1:10	SPECIAL (Drama, Art, Seeds of Kindness, Creative Movement)
1:55	Social Studies or Science or PBIS or Read Aloud
2:40	Pack Up & Organize Homework Dismissal

Academic Subjects

Reading

Students typically make huge strides in reading in first and second grade, often moving through several reading levels over the course of the year. Some important goals we focus

on are reading with accuracy, fluency and comprehension, teaching the students to monitor for meaning across increasingly longer and more complex texts. Students will be taught to go beyond the literal and to dig for deeper meaning, such as looking at character motivation or author's purpose. Our reading curriculum — aligned to the Common Core — is developed and guided by Teachers College Reading and Writing Project. The end of the year standard for first grade is J, and second grade is M.

In first and second grade, we will be reviewing the following reading units: Building Good Habits, Word Detectives, Nonfiction Reading, Meeting Characters and Learning Lessons, and Series Book Clubs.

Students are assessed throughout the year for reading accuracy, fluency and comprehension using Running Records. The reading levels are determined by a student's performance on the Running Records. We also give end-of-unit assessments that reflect the children's comprehension, based upon a shared reading of a text or their independent reading texts. Comprehension assessments might include stop and jots or other types of responses to literature, both oral and written.

Writing

This year is going to be an exciting time for writers! They are going to learn to write with more stamina and elaboration. This may include adding dialogue, vivid descriptions using their 5 senses, and increasing the length of their writing pieces. As with reading, our Common Core aligned writing curriculum comes to us through Teachers College Reading and Writing Project. Children are exposed to many kinds of narrative and informational writing, and are taught structures and styles particular to those genres. Particular attention is given to author's craft. Students will use authors as mentors to guide their decisions for publishing.

This year's first and second grade will be studying the following writing units: Narrative Writing, Nonfiction Chapter Books, Poetry, Realistic Fiction, Response to Literature, and Independent Writing Projects.

Assessments of these works of writing will be based upon a scoring rubric from 1 to 4, with 4 being the highest grade. At the completion of each unit, an "on-demand" piece will be written by the students independently in class as an assessment of what they are able to do without adult support.

Math:

Our math curriculum follows coursework furnished by TERC, Math in the City, Number Talks and Go Math and is aligned with the Common Core Standards. Students will engage in a diverse range of math explorations and games that present a balanced approach to teaching and learning math.

The Math Units students will study include: building numbers and solving story problems, comparing and combining shapes (geometry), place value, addition and subtraction, money, time, and measurement.

Word Study

During Word Study, we will address the foundational skills listed in the Common Core State Standards: phonological awareness (auditory skills), phonics/spelling patterns (sound letter correspondence), irregularly spelled words (sight words/high frequency words), and conventions. It will be taught based on the needs of each child. Foundations is a structured and multisensory (auditory, visual, and kinesthetic) program.

Social Studies

Students in first grade will explore families and how they influence who we are. Students will also examine how families grow and change over time. Students will discuss the components of a community and the responsibilities of different members in a community.

Students in second grade will examine how geography influences where people live. They will also explore how communities change over time. Students will learn about different types of communities (rural, urban, and suburban). Students will discuss the role of government and laws.

Science

Students in first grade will learn how animals are alike and different. They will also learn about weather and seasons. They will discuss how seasons affect temperature. They will also discuss how seasons affect weather conditions over a period of time. Students will identify the different states of matter (solid, liquid, and gas). They will pay close attention to the water cycle (evaporation, condensation, and participation).

Students in second grade will examine different Earth materials. Students will observe and describe the physical properties of rocks. Students will learn about force and motion, and what causes objects to move. Students will learn about plants and will determine how plants are alike and different.

If any of you have interest or expertise in either Science or Social Studies, and would like to be a class speaker or visitor, please let us know!

Specials

	Special
Monday	Art
Tuesday	Creative Movement and Music
Wednesday	Creative Movement
Thursday	Drama
Friday	Seeds of Kindness

In order to participate in **Creative Movement**, students must wear **sneakers**.

Drama (Downstairs by cafeteria), Seeds of Kindness (Room 116), Creative Movement (Downstairs behind Drama Room), Music (Room 101)

We invite you to visit these classrooms to speak with your child's Specials teachers.

Homework

Word Study & Math Homework

Homework will begin Monday, September 18. Each Monday, students will receive a word study packet and a math packet. Both packets are due on Friday. We encourage students to complete a page from each packet every night to develop good homework habits and foster responsibility. We will teach the students how to complete the packet and encourage you to support your child in doing a little bit each day. Each Friday students will be tested on the words that they studied and practiced throughout the week.

Reading Homework

Our goal for home reading is not just to give students additional reading practice, but for reading to develop into an activity that students truly enjoy and want to do. With that goal in mind, students are expected to read for at least

1. 10 minutes (Levels A-D)
2. 15 minutes (level E-H)
3. 20- 25 minutes (Levels I and higher)

every night and complete their reading log. The reading log is a tool we use to track the children's reading stamina and interests. We ask that you monitor their reading at home by discussing texts together. This can include asking questions about the text, sharing connections, and opinions. Please initial the reading log after each book discussion.

Students can read books they bring from school for reading homework, and they can also read and log books or any other text they find at home (a newspaper or magazine, a menu,

a cereal box, etc.) Though no word study or math homework will be assigned over the weekend, students are expected to double their reading time over the weekend.

Finally, your input and coaching on homework can be instructive to your child. However, if your child is struggling and not able to do the work independently, please let us know. It is important that students do not feel overwhelmed and frustrated by homework demands.

Trips

We will be going on several field trips throughout the school year. Most are aligned with the Science and Social Studies curriculum. *Please promptly return permission slips and money in an envelope with your child's name on it.* No child will be turned away from a trip for lack of payment. We appreciate donations for those children unable to pay. We also encourage parents to act as chaperones. You will find the chaperone check off on the trip permission form.

Snack

We typically have snack time for about 10-15 minutes every morning around 10 am. We appreciate your snack donations of healthy crackers or cereal, cheese sticks, and fresh or dried fruit. Unless your child has an allergy or dietary restriction, we will all be eating the same snack. Thank you!

If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at Carfora.Namdar@gmail.com

Thank you!